

Park News

Dinosaur National Monument Colorado / Utah

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Dear Friends of the Park,

The National Park Service (NPS) and Dinosaur National Monument are beginning preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze the impacts of a broad range of design alternatives to stabilize, rehabilitate, or replace the historic Quarry Visitor Center at Dinosaur National Monument. Since 1957, the Quarry Visitor Center has protected and provided visitor access and interpretation of “the greatest quarry of Jurassic dinosaurs in the world.” The building has been designated a national historic landmark as an outstanding example of Mission 66 “Park Service Modern” architectural design.

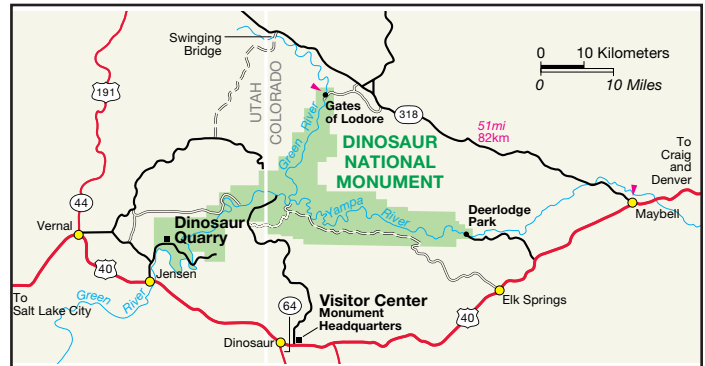
Unfortunately, the building since its construction has experienced problems with movement resulting from moisture penetrating the expansive clay underlying the foundation. The visitor center has suffered extensive structural damage due to this movement. Attempts to stabilize the building have been ongoing for 40 years, with major projects undertaken in 1967 and during the 1980s. Despite these efforts, the building continues to deteriorate, presenting safety concerns and costly ongoing maintenance issues.

In order to address these problems, the environment impact statement will analyze alternatives for the stabilization, rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement of the Quarry Visitor Center. This project will also recommend actions to correct numerous safety hazards, provide continued safe access for employees and visitors, accommodate special needs for accessibility, and if feasible, maintain the integrity of the national historic landmark. The project will maintain an environment that provides park visitors with necessary interpretive exhibits and information and accommodates the cooperating association’s sales outlet, either in the existing visitor center or in a new facility. This project will not reduce the square footage of the sales outlet and if possible will increase the square footage.

This project poses the possibility of significant adverse impacts on a national historic landmark as well as on currently undiscovered fossil resources. The environmental impact statement will identify all reasonable alternatives for the future of the Quarry Visitor Center, analyze the impacts of these alternatives, and where necessary identify appropriate mitigation measures. The EIS process also requires an extensive public involvement process throughout the project. This process will solicit input from the general public as well as congressional delegations and state and local agencies and organizations. Opportunities for involvement in the planning process will include a public review draft of the design alternatives and environmental impact statement, and public meetings to provide additional opportunities to comment on the design alternatives and the analysis of their environmental impacts.

We look forward to your comments at any time during this project. Please use the enclosed comment form to share with us your thoughts for the future of the Quarry Visitor Center and the visitor experience at the park. Please accept my thanks for your continued support of the National Park Service and Dinosaur National Monument. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the number below.

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Dinosaur National Monument
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Quarry Visitor Center